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TITLE: STD/HIV Prevention Case Management Program (PCM) for High-Risk HIV-Negative Individuals

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BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVE: The link between STD and HIV prevention is synonymous. Individuals infected with STDs are at a greater risk of contracting HIV infection than those not infected. The Chicago HIV/STD Prevention program performs approximately 16,000 HIV tests per year. The positivity rate is 1.56%. In Chicago, seropositive individuals are referred to primary care for medical maintenance. Negative partners of HIV seropositive are offered enrollment into the PCM program. The objectives of this program are to empower high-risk HIV-negative individuals in the city of Chicago to stay negative; increase HIV awareness; develop or enhance personal skills in negotiations, problem solving and decision making.

METHODS: STD/HIV counselors offer PCM referrals to all high-risk HIV-negative individuals tested by unit. The PCM program is introduced during the pretest counseling session, and offered during the posttest after the client has been informed of their status. Upon acceptance the counselor faxes a referral to the contract agency for immediate follow-up. The contract agency applies multi-tier prevention strategies using individual and group counseling to assist clients in developing and implementing plans of action to stay HIV negative and incorporate healthier behaviors.

RESULTS: In 1998, 482 PCM referrals were made by the unit. Of those 169 enrolled into the program, PCM services were provided to a total of 46 individuals—123 participated in individual sessions and 36 participated in group sessions.

CONCLUSIONS: PCM promotes awareness and assists high-risk clients with reducing behaviors that place them at risk for contracting HIV. The presentation will review start-up activities, obstacles in recruitment, follow-up and retention of providing a PCM program within a STD Prevention Program.

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